




Fifty years since the uprising that shook Stalinism
 >>Pages 10&11

1968 PRAGUE SPRING



After John McDonnell calls for revival of
 Anti Nazi League >>Pages 14&15

HOW THE NATIONAL FRONT WAS BEATEN

Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2617 | 15-21 August 2018 | socialistworker.co.uk

CORBYN BACKS PALESTINE MAY BACKS MURDERERS



**With Saudi Crown Prince
Mohammed bin Salman**
The butcher of Yemen



**With US president
Donald Trump**
World's No1 bomber



**With Israeli leader
Binyamin Netanyahu**
War criminal

TORIES' TERROR LINKS

● **Defend
Jeremy Corbyn**

● **Solidarity
with Palestine**

TORY RACISM

Johnson's Islamophobia boosts attacks

by TOMÁŠ TENGELEY-EVANS

MUSLIM WOMEN are facing growing attacks in the wake of Tory MP Boris Johnson's racist rant.

He said Muslim women who wear the burqa look like "letter boxes" and "bank robbers".

A woman wearing the niqab was targeted soon after in London, according to the Tell Mama hate crime monitoring group. This was followed a further three attacks in London and Luton on the following day—and another one in London last Friday.

The group said that there is a "direct link"



Azmat Parveen

between the spike in attacks on Muslim women and Johnson's comments.

Azmat Parveen joined a lively picket of Johnson's office in west London to defend her right to choose to wear the burqa.

"This is going to extend and extend—we have to have action," she told Socialist Worker.

"I have had many experiences of Islamophobia.

"Sometimes people tar me as a terrorist. And sometimes when I enter a bus or train people say maybe there is a bomb inside of me.

"But I always face it bravely."

Johnson sniffs a chance to be Tory leader, and he hopes to use racism to win support.

Anti-racists must stand in solidarity with Muslims.

>>Pages 4&5



THE THINGS THEY SAY

‘Boris just needs to be Boris—true to his nature and his calling—and I think he has potential to be a great prime minister, not a good one’

Far right flavour of the month and former aide to US President Donald Trump **Steve Bannon** on his latest protege

‘I had loads of abuse. Men f*** hated me’**

Jamie Oliver claims men hated him because he gave women the confidence to tell men to do some cooking

‘Christine Hamilton is no longer an ambassador of MDUK’

Muscular Dystrophy UK drop the right wing **Hamilton**. She had posted an image of members of the Ku Klux Klan in their hoods on Friday. She tweeted, “If the #burka is acceptable then presumably this is too?”

‘You pull your hand away and go Yuck’

Actor **Kathleen Turner** says US President **Donald Trump’s** handshake left her somewhat repulsed



Ratcliffe leaves a sinking ship to avoid paying more taxes

BRITAIN’S RICHEST man and Troublemaker regular **Sir Jim Ratcliffe** is off to live in Monaco after spending two years here.

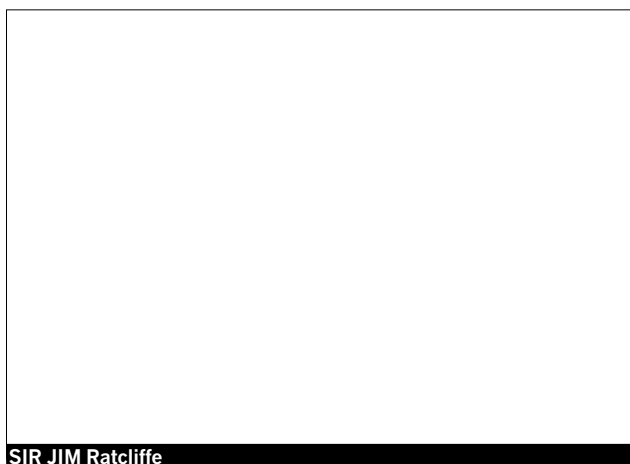
The tycoon with a fortune estimated at £21 billion, lived in Switzerland from 2010 to 2016. Now he is preparing to move to the Mediterranean principality in an attempt to lower his tax bill.

He moved his Ineos chemicals business to Switzerland in 2010 after falling out with the then Labour government.

He marked his return six years later by opening a new headquarters in Knightsbridge.

Invitations to a lavish opening party were emblazoned with the Union Jack.

He said at the time, “We are Brits, aren’t we? It’s where we started and it’s



SIR JIM Ratcliffe

where our hearts lie” The tycoon has been assiduously courted by Tory ministers and was knighted in June.

According to The Sunday Times Rich List, Ineos made a profit last year of £5.15 billion.

Ineos is preparing to pay out a dividend to its shareholders. Ratcliffe owns 60 percent of the company and would receive the bulk of any payout.

The corporate structure of Ineos is opaque.

Understanding where Ineos generates profits and pays taxes has always been difficult.

The petrochemical business publishes financial reports for Ineos Group Holdings SA, registered in Luxembourg, which declared a before-tax profit of around £2 billion last year, paying corporation tax of £269 million, 13 percent of reported earnings. The British rate is a rather low 19 percent.

The Luxembourg company is owned by Ineos Ltd, which is registered in the Isle of Man. However, not all assets are controlled by Ineos Group Holdings SA. There are several parts that report profits separately—27 organised in six groups. Even the smallest has a billion-euro turnover.

The amount of tax paid in Britain is unclear.

● **WHEN DAVID** Cameron paid £25,000 for a designer shed he faced ridicule. He has shrugged off the mockery, however, and bought a second shepherd’s hut. The former prime minister purchased his first luxury outhouse, complete with sheep’s wool insulation, for his house in the Cotswolds last year. A similar structure has emerged at his Cornwall holiday home.



The new hut

● **THE BUNGLING** boss of Network Rail will continue to be paid by the company despite stepping down. **Mark Carne** presided over the introduction of new timetables in May which led to thousands of trains being cancelled or delayed. He officially quits this week but remains on the payroll until next month.

Homelessness will disappear, claim Tories

THE TORIES have promised to eradicate homelessness by 2027.

They announced there’s £100 million available for the task.

If that were true, it would not be enough. As it is, it emerged there is actually no new money.

“Yes, some of this is reprioritised... reprioritised from within existing budgets,” said communities minister **James Brokenshire** on Monday.

Since the Tories came to office in 2010 homelessness has increased every year. Currently 4,500 people sleep rough every night.

And rough sleepers

James Brokenshire

are only a fraction of the picture—Tory cuts have forced thousands into temporary accommodation.

Funding for women fleeing domestic violence will also come from the same pot.

This could mean women and children sharing accommodation with people with drug and alcohol problems.

“No one should ever have to sleep rough,” said **Brokenshire**, launching the plan. But his policies will ensure thousands do.

Revolving door to Amazon cloud job

LIAM MAXWELL was the first chief technology officer for Government Digital Services before starting as national technology adviser.

He is sadly leaving the civil service.

Happily he has got a senior job in public sector procurement at Amazon’s cloud-computing arm. Maxwell helped to create the government’s “cloud-first” policy, which has benefited Amazon as a provider of public sector cloud contracts worth £50 million a year.

Latest accounts revealed that Amazon’s

Liam Maxwell

British warehousing subsidiary paid corporation tax of only £1.7 million last year, on revenues of nearly £2 billion.

A further £2.9 million of tax was deferred.

Amazon does not disclose the tax paid on three quarters of its total British revenues, which are channelled via Luxembourg.

Troublemaker wishes Maxwell well in his entirely appropriate new job.

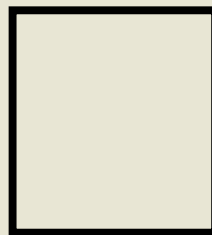
Cash to access government

THE TORIES are asking for cash for access at their party conference.

The advertisement for the event in Birmingham in September says, “Over 300 MPs, peers, MSPs and AMs wanting to learn more about your business.”

“So why not tell them? You can put your business in front of the country’s politicians and media. And you can network with other businesses. Like Amazon and Google.”

A commercial pass costs £975. Businesses can sign up for a “Business Day” package for £2,750 and attend the business dinner for £400.



KNOW YOUR ENEMY

No. 443522

Councillor Mike Bird Walsall Tory leader

● Asked about Travellers he said, “They have no respect whatsoever for our community.”

● He added, “It’s the rubbish they leave, the intimidation, the threats, the theft. They are parasites.”

● He later apologised but denied saying “parasites”

Nurses lose their pay rises

THOUSANDS of NHS workers have had their pay rise wiped out because they have had to pay more into their pension.

Pay rises took effect last month but some were paid less thanks to the way their pension contributions were set. A life insurance company, Royal London, said that nurses earning between £23,023 and £29,608 had been particularly affected.

It calculated that a nurse earning £26,500 could see their gross salary rise this year to £27,030, but their pension contribution would grow from 7.1 percent to 9.3 percent of their salary, from £1,881 to £2,514 a year.

As a result, after income tax and national insurance their net pay would fall from £19,895 to £19,754.

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Hundreds join Bookmarks solidarity day after attack

SOLIDARITY POURED in from across the left and the labour movement to socialist bookshop Bookmarks in central London last Saturday.

Hundreds of people attended the “We will not be silenced” day of book readings, poetry and speeches.

It was organised after a group of Nazis and racists ransacked the bookshop during the previous weekend.

Dave Gilchrist, manager of Bookmarks, said he was “overwhelmed to see so many people here” and that the “number of messages has been immense”.

“It wasn’t just an attack on Bookmarks, it was an attack on the whole movement,” he said. “But we have emerged from it much, much stronger.”

Those who came were from the Labour Party, Momentum, trade unions and campaign groups. Sue Campbell, a Momentum member in Camden, north London, told Socialist Worker, “This attack on Bookmarks had reminders of 1930s Germany.”

“By the sounds and looks of it the far right is growing. We came because it’s important to show solidarity”.

Hypocrisy

Many people pointed out how the attack on Bookmarks exposed the hypocrisy of the fascists and racists who paint their figurehead Tommy Robinson as a “free speech martyr”.

People packed into the bookshop across the day. Many more crowded on the street outside.

More than 300 people also attended an event at nearby Bloomsbury Baptist Church to hear speeches and book readings from authors and activists.

David Rosenberg from the Jewish Socialists’ Group read a message of solidarity from Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

It said, “Bookshops being attacked shows how frightened they are of



BOOKMARKS MANAGER Dave Gilchrist speaking to supporters at the Bloomsbury Baptist Church last Saturday (above). Author Louise Raw (below) also spoke at the solidarity event

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



ideas of a different society. There is only one answer—solidarity”

Throughout the day chairs Andrea Butcher and Sarah Ensor, both former Bookmarks workers, read out messages of support from authors, poets and politicians.

Ann Mitchell, who stars in BBC soap Eastenders, read Whitechapel Library—Aldgate East, a poem by left wing East End writer Bernard Kops. Authors who spoke included Kim Sherwood and Louise Raw.

The show of solidarity showed the potential to build unity against the fascists and racists. Weyman Bennett

from Stand Up To Racism called on people to unite against the threat of resurgent forces of the British far right.

“Tommy Robinson’s supporters had 15,000 on the streets—they are bigger now than before,” he said.

“We built the Anti Nazi League, we built Unite Against Fascism—and we’re building Stand Up To Racism.”

“It is not automatic that we win but we will fight.”

What’s your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Housing plan won’t solve crisis

THE TORIES announced their new social housing green paper on Tuesday.

Much was made of giving social housing tenants more say in the management of their homes after the Grenfell Tower fire.

Communities minister James Brokenshire even said the paper would change a culture where “I am made to feel less of a person than the person that has bought their house.”

Yet the Tories have pushed that idea for decades.

They have created a housing crisis. The answer is more council housing where landlords—councils—are democratically accountable to their tenants.

But the Tories have given no money for council house building.

Hidden behind the headlines was a genuine climbdown.

Stock

One part of the hated Housing and Planning Act would have forced councils to sell council housing stock to fund the extension of Right to Buy to housing associations.

That policy has now been scrapped—a victory for campaigners.

The green paper proposes “league tables” for social housing landlords, apparently to increase accountability.

Grenfell Tower resident Edward Daffarn hit the nail on the head with his response.

“Social housing is not like choosing a doctor,” he said.

“You can’t just up sticks and move if your housing association gets a low rating.”

“Much more is needed to put power in residents’ hands.”

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IN THIS WEEK

1969

British troops sent to Northern Ireland

A LABOUR government sent British troops to Northern Ireland on 14 August 1969.

It was in response to the “Battle of the Bogside”—an uprising that saw Catholics in Derry take over the area and force out the cops.



Johnson's burqa attack gives boost to far right

Former foreign secretary is feeding on years of Tory Islamophobia, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

PRESSURE WAS growing on Theresa May to drop disciplinary measures against racist former foreign secretary Boris Johnson on Monday.

Right wingers and bigots have lined up to defend Johnson's racist diatribe about Muslim women. He wrote in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper last week that women who wear the burqa look like "letter boxes" and "bank robbers".

Various bigots also called Johnson jumped in to defend him.

His father and former Tory MEP Stanley Johnson wrote that his son "should have gone further" and called for a ban on the burqa.

And Mail on Sunday columnist Rachel Johnson painted her brother as standing up for women's rights against "the oppressive garment".

They all claim that Johnson simply expressed what the majority of ordinary people think. But millions of people, of all backgrounds, believe people should be free to wear what they want.

Belief

Sam Waterhouse lives in Johnson's Uxbridge constituency in west London. "I believe that women have the right to wear whatever they choose to wear," she told Socialist Worker. "If I thought that a woman

BACK STORY

Boris Johnson has provoked outrage with his comments comparing some Muslim women to letterboxes and bank robbers

●He is appealing to the extreme right of the Tory party to try and undermine Theresa May

●But he is allowed to do so by years of Tory attacks on Muslims

●These have promoted and legitimised Islamophobic words and actions

●The Tories are racist to their core. They need to be forced out

was being coerced, I would be behind the woman.

"But what's going on in society at the moment is that women are being coerced by anti-Muslim figures to wear other than what they would choose to wear."

The fallout from Johnson's racist article has intensified the war within the Tory party.

Johnson has been positioning himself as a potential leadership challenger, appealing particularly to the party's racist base.

Outcry forced May and party chairman Brandon Lewis into calling an investigation—which they

saw as an opportunity to sideline Johnson. But right wing back-benchers have seized on this "witch hunt" to pressure May over Brexit. The 1922 Committee of backbench Tory MPs needs 48 letters to trigger a vote of no confidence in the leader.

According to some MPs, 38 have already been sent over the proposed Brexit deal—and one MP warned, "Any punishment beating will be the tipping point."

But this is about more than internal Tory warfare. Johnson's prejudices show how deeply racism runs through the party.

His comments are no fringe belief among Conservatives.

They stem from the government's Islamophobic policies—which May has been at the forefront of pushing through.

Terrible

"Jeremy Corbyn is labelled as antisemitic when he's against the terrible things Israel is doing to the Palestinians," said Sam in Uxbridge.

"Johnson has come out with some hideously racist, nasty, defamatory comments, but everyone just thinks it's because he's a bumbling fool, a joke or a laugh. I don't think he's a

joke or a laugh. I think he's evil and corrupt."

Johnson's comments will give confidence to the resurgent forces of the British far right.

And he is already responsible for the increase in abuse Muslim women are suffering on the streets.

Anti-racists must build opposition to Islamophobic attacks—and against the politicians who fuel them.



On other pages...

Defend Jeremy Corbyn against antisemitism attack >>Page 7

FIGURE IT OUT

0 The number of incidents targeting Muslim women wearing face veils in the week before Johnson's article

5 The number of incidents targeting women who wear the veil in the week after the racist MP's comments. That's according to the Tell Mama hate crime recording organisation

movement gathered on the opposite side of the road.

At first they claimed that they had nothing to do with Nazi Tommy Robinson. But by the end they were chanting his name.

And, most worryingly, a few local residents came out to join them too. This shows how Johnson has helped to normalise racist ideas by popularising them in the mainstream.

Men telling women what they can wear

ATTACKS ON Muslim women who wear the burqa are cloaked in claims of standing up against male oppression.

The idea of white men "saving" oppressed women has been a recurring theme of Western imperialism.

Tory Lord Cromer was in charge of the colonisation of Egypt during the heyday of Johnson's beloved British Empire.

To firm up British rule of the country, Cromer argued that people had to adopt a Western way of life. And, in particular, he saw the veil as "backward" and an obstacle to his "civilising" mission.

Islamophobia

He was also the president of the Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage in Britain.

Western politicians use Islamophobia to try and justify their imperialist wars in the Middle East. They paint Muslims as an "enemy within" or a "nation within a nation" refusing to accept "British values".

The attacks on the burqa today are part of this "othering" of Muslims.

Socialists should not fall into the trap of believing religion is responsible for women's oppression. The left must stand against Islamophobia and behind a woman's right to wear whatever she wants to wear.

Former foreign minister's record proves his bigotry

BORIS JOHNSON has a long record of racism—and is now courting far right figures.

He is reported to have built a relationship with Donald Trump's former senior adviser—racist Steve Bannon.

Bannon urged him not to "bow at the altar of political correctness by apologising" for his article about Muslim women.

And he said Johnson would make a "good prime minister"—in the same breath as praising Nazi Tommy Robinson as a "force of nature".

In 2016 former US president Barack Obama waded into the European Union referendum campaign on the side of Remain. Johnson labelled the first black president as a "part-Kenyan" who had an "ancestral dislike" of Britain.

This sort of old-fashioned racism, born of the British Empire, is a recurring theme for Johnson.

In a 2002 Sunday Telegraph column Johnson said the queen liked touring the Commonwealth

because she's greeted by "cheering crowds of flag-waving piccaninnies". And he went on to write that people in central Africa would greet Tony Blair with "watermelon smiles".

These are not the outbursts of a Tory dinosaur, but crafted appeals to Tory racism.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

THE MEDIA LOVE RACISM—THEY JUST HATE CORBYN

JEREMY CORBYN has never and will never receive fair treatment from the media.

It's obvious that an army of researchers has been unleashed to hunt for anything in Corbyn's past that can be falsely spun as antisemitic or linked to terrorism.

There is an endless campaign by backers of Israel, the Labour right and swathes of the media to demoralise Corbyn and his supporters. It is designed to make them drop solidarity with the Palestinians.

Nothing will distract the attackers from that task. At the same time Boris Johnson's vile comments attacking Muslim women are largely glossed over. To see the contrast, imagine if Jeremy Corby had appeared to reporters, offered them a cup of tea but refused to answer questions. There would have been outrage.

Yet reporters giggled at Johnson when he did this.

Or imagine the furore if a Corbyn follower had written an article calling for more antisemitism from Labour. Yet there was hardly a murmur at former BBC Radio

4Today programme editor Rod Liddle's article in the Spectator magazine. The headline was, "My own view is that there is not nearly enough Islamophobia within the Tory party."

This happens because most of the media are happy to use racism to divide people and distract from the crimes of the rich and the politicians who support them.

Not one of them cares about antisemitism. If they did they would be forced to report that the same Binyamin Netanyahu who is attacking Corbyn backs Viktor Orban. The Hungarian leader is actively encouraging antisemitism.

And we shouldn't forget that



The media are happy to use racism to distract from the crimes of the rich

the Daily Mail used antisemitism against previous Labour leader Ed Miliband. The lesson is that making concessions and talking up Corbyn's peace-loving moderation will never work.

Every step backwards will lead to demands for more, until the demand becomes that Corbyn must go and nobody like him must ever be allowed to lead Labour.

That's why it was welcome on Monday when Corbyn stopped retreating and hit back against Netanyahu, rightly condemning his role in the murder of Palestinians.

There is now a choice.

Everyone has to decide if they are for Netanyahu and the Tories, or for Palestine, the right to say Israel is a racist state and defending Corbyn.

This battle will be hugely strengthened if Corbyn himself goes on the offensive.

Let's see campaigns and protests when British-backed Saudi Arabia murders children in Yemen and when Israel mows down Palestinians.

Let's hear confident support for Palestine.

Let's fight back against the right and their rotten supporters in Labour and the trade unions.

THE UNFARE RAIL RIP OFF

THE LATEST plans to hike rail fares show why we have to stop the private train companies in their tracks.

The Tories were set to announce a 3.5 percent increase on Wednesday of this week.

Every year the Tories hike the price of half of fares—which are supposed to be "regulated"—in line with the RPI measure of inflation. These regulated fares include season tickets, which many workers rely on to commute into work. Far from

helping passengers, this sort of fake regulation guarantees bosses bigger profits.

The Tories and bosses claim the RPI measure inflation is too "unreliable" when it comes to pay rises. In reality, they don't use it because it's usually higher than the CPI measure.

Yet when it comes to hitting workers' wallets, the Tories are more than happy to use RPI.

While fares have risen by 32 percent in the last nine years, average weekly earnings have

gone up by only 16 percent.

Meanwhile, timetable chaos reigns on our railways and bosses are making travel inaccessible and unsafe with plans for driver only operation (see page 19).

The only solution is for our railways to be run for public need, not private profit.

And that means immediately renationalising the whole rail industry—without a penny of compensation to the fat cat thieves who operate at our stations.

Stand Up To Racism activists' diary



● **Love Music Hate Racism float at Notting Hill Carnival, Sunday 26 & Monday 27 August** bit.ly/LMHRcarnival

● **Stand Up To Racism international conference, Saturday 20 October, central London** bit.ly/SUTRconference



Tory Baroness Warsi said Johnson's remarks make 'hate crime more likely'

Outside racist Johnson's constituency office last Thursday

ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



Turkish turmoil could trigger wider collapse

THE PLUNGE in the value of the Turkish currency is a sign of escalating tension with the US. But it may also indicate a coming economic storm that could hit many more countries and wreck millions of lives.

The Turkish lira lost a fifth of its value against the dollar last week and has fallen more than 40 percent since the start of the year.

This means that Turkish banks and firms that have debts in dollars now have to repay far more in lira to meet the same amount. It also means that Turkey's debts—which are valued in dollars—soar in terms of the lira.

The immediate issues behind the collapsing currency are US government tariffs against Turkey and increasing conflict between the two governments.

US president Donald Trump has ordered a doubling of tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminium.

Trump doesn't mind Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan imprisoning his opponents and murdering the Kurds. But he doesn't approve of Turkey refusing to follow the US's demands.

Tension has been rising ever since the US allied with Kurdish forces in northern Syria in order to defeat Isis. Turkey sees these Kurdish forces as its mortal enemy and has moved closer to Russia and China.

In the last week Erdogan has stepped up rhetoric against the US saying, "Don't forget, if they have their dollars, we have our people, our god." He promised "economic war".

Another issue angering Trump is the Turkish detention of US evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson. He is accused of supporting the 2016 coup against Erdogan and faces up to 35 years in prison.

The outcome of all this may be that Turkey detaches itself further from its Nato allies.

The international editor of the Financial Times newspaper last week wrote that the latest fallout was a "poisoned cherry on a rotting cake". He added that Turkey "is already the third leg of a new power tripod in the Middle East with Russia and Iran".

Finance

However, the Turkish regime is also looking at ways to remake its relationship with the US and the European Union. On Monday Turkey's finance minister—who happens to be Erdogan's son-in-law—promised a host of neoliberal measures in an effort to calm the markets.

But there are wider questions which could prove even more important. One is that some European banks have lent large amounts to Turkish financial institutions, companies and the government.

Spanish banks have loaned Turkey around £65 billion. If Turkey crashes then those banks could be in trouble.

More generally the US decision since 2015 to gradually raise its central bank interest rates is hitting weaker economies hard. Investors seeking easy profits will shift money from countries such as Turkey to the US if it offers a higher return and the safety of a powerful country.

Any aggravating factor—such as trade wars or a row with the US—can then see panic and a stampede to move money.

The South African, Indian and Indonesian currencies were all beginning to fall at the start of this week.

The leading US economist Paul Krugman wrote last weekend that the Turkish lira plunge was a re-enactment of the Asian financial crisis of 20 years ago.

That saw millions of people lose their jobs as companies collapsed and production plummeted.

Krugman wrote, "Loss of confidence causes your currency to drop. This makes it harder to repay debts in foreign currency. This hurts the real economy and further reduces confidence, leading to a further decline in your currency and so on."

"If there is no effective policy response, the currency drops and debt measured in domestic currency balloons until everyone who can go bankrupt does."

During the 1997 Asian crisis the US was seen as helpful in bailing out the bankers, bosses and friendly governments that were under pressure.

That's not guaranteed now.

The plunging Turkish currency underlines the fragility of the recovery from the economic crisis globally.



CLASS ANGER burst onto the streets in the days after the Grenfell Tower fire

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Grenfell bosses ignored fire warnings given before blaze

by ALISTAIR FARROW

HOUSING BOSSES knew that Grenfell Tower was unsafe and did nothing to fix it, according to damning new evidence.

The west London tower block failed two separate safety inspections before the fire that killed at least 72 people in June 2017.

Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) did not act on them.

One inspection was an independent fire risk assessment in June 2016.

The other was carried out by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). It delivered its report eight months before the fire.

Serious

LFEPA told KCTMO the safety work should have been carried out by May 2017, one month before the fire.

Its report found serious problems with fire doors, some of which did not fit properly, and other problems which allowed smoke to spread more quickly.

Moyra Samuels from the Justice4Grenfell campaign group said, "This shows clearly there is culpability."

"If these fire risks were identified before the fire and not acted upon there's a clear line of responsibility."

The latest shocking revelations came ahead of the monthly Silent Walk for Grenfell this Tuesday.

They also back up what residents said all along—that the tower was a death trap.

The inspections also raised questions about whether the 2016 refurbishment of the building had altered firefighters' ability to operate the lift controls in an emergency.

The independent fire risk inspection report found 43 separate "high risk" failings. These are on top of other safety issues, such as



Justice4Grenfell campaigner Moyra Samuels

failed air vents and problems with doors.

A firefighter who attended the tower on the night of the fire described how important this was. "You didn't see anybody else, you literally had to bump into them."

"It was just hot, humid and thick black smoke," they said.

"Not having correct fire doors is important. Once the smoke starts seeping through to other places, it makes it difficult and dangerous for everybody on that floor."

"And it shouldn't really go into the stairwell unless there was a breach or ill-fitted doors or something of that nature."

Cops have said they are considering charges of corporate manslaughter, among others.

It's a scandal that over a year since the fire just three people have been interviewed under caution—and that no arrests have been made.

Moyra argued the fact the evidence was not acted on before the fire shows the "general disdain to the North Kensington community."

Individuals responsible for the fire, including sitting councillors and former KCTMO bosses, must not be allowed to evade responsibility.

Fire union slams cuts

THE FBU firefighters' union has hit out against Tory funding cuts which it says are responsible for a spike in fire deaths.

Fire deaths in England last year were at their highest since 2010–2011—334.

Cuts have seen one in five firefighter jobs slashed since 2010.

That means there are 10,000 fewer firefighters on duty.

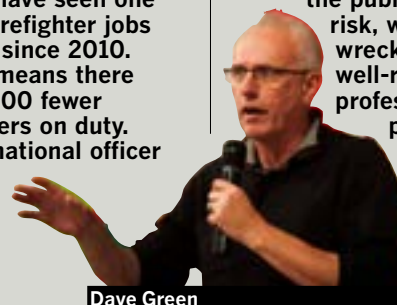
FBU national officer

Dave Green said, "The Grenfell

Tower fire should have been a wake-up call. The Westminster government should have reacted by investing in the fire and rescue service.

"But instead they just keep on cutting."

"They are putting the public at risk, while wrecking a well-respected, professional public service."



Dave Green



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Corbyn says he's right to stand up for Palestine

Labour's leader showed how to turn the tables on the right by bringing solidarity with Palestinians to the fore

JEREMY CORBYN has finally hit back after weeks of accusations of antisemitism levelled at him over his support for Palestine.

On Monday night Corbyn slammed Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who had attacked him for appearing at the grave of a Palestinian fighter.

Netanyahu said Corbyn deserved “unequivocal condemnation from everyone”.

But Corbyn said, “What deserves unequivocal condemnation is the killing of over 160 Palestinian protesters in Gaza by Israeli forces since March, including dozens of children.”

It came after Corbyn was attacked for appearing at a memorial ceremony in Tunisia to commemorate those killed in an Israeli airstrike there in 1985.

Some 47 people were killed by the Israeli attack on the Tunisian base of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Photographs also appear to show him holding a wreath near the graves of Palestinians said to have been involved in the resistance group Black September.

The group was named after a massacre of thousands of Palestinians by British ally Jordan in 1970.

Hostage

It held Israeli athletes hostage during the 1972 Munich Olympics to demand the release of hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli jails.

The hostages died during a gun battle when West German police opened fire after breaking a promise made during negotiations.

Corbyn's critics seized on his appearance at the memorial to accuse him of supporting “terrorism”. They described his criticism of Israel as an irrelevant diversion.

It is stinking hypocrisy from those who have used accusations against Corbyn to defend Israel from criticism and undermine support for the Palestinian struggle.

Israeli airstrikes on the Palestinian Gaza Strip killed a pregnant woman

BACK STORY

The right is trying to smear the Palestine solidarity movement as antisemitic

● They want the Labour Party to adopt all the examples in the IHRA definition of antisemitism

● One example says that labelling Israel a “racist endeavour” is antisemitic

● Israel was founded through the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians

● Its racist laws against Arabs make it an apartheid state

and her one year old daughter last week.

And two Palestinians were killed—and 900 injured—during a protest last Friday.

Speaking after the latest bombardment, Netanyahu said Israel's airstrikes were meant to “exact an additional heavy price” for Palestinian resistance.

Yet Netanyahu is still welcomed to Downing Street whenever he visits Britain—as he was in June this year.

So was Saudi Arabian crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman, whose bombs have massacred tens of thousands of Yemeni civilians.

Many of those who attack Corbyn for sympathising with Palestinian resistance—including Labour MPs—have justified Israeli massacres and defended Britain's arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Corbyn claimed he appeared at the memorial to “pursue peace” and “dialogue”. But this opened him up to questions about why he never met with Israelis fighting the Palestinians.

Corbyn initially struggled to defend himself. He then found that the best way to hit back is to come out unashamedly on the side of Palestinians fighting back.



On other pages...

Trump attacks 20 million immigrants >>Page 16

CORBYN SLAMMED Israel's bombing of the Gaza Strip

Trade union leaders pile pressure onto Labour to silence criticism of Israel

TRADE UNION leaders and allies of Corbyn have put increasing pressure on him to adopt a definition of antisemitism that restricts criticism of Israel.

The leaders of three major Labour-affiliated trade unions have called on the party to accept that it is antisemitic to describe Israel as a racist state.

Jon Lansman, founder of Labour left group Momentum, is also reported to have called on Corbyn to back down.

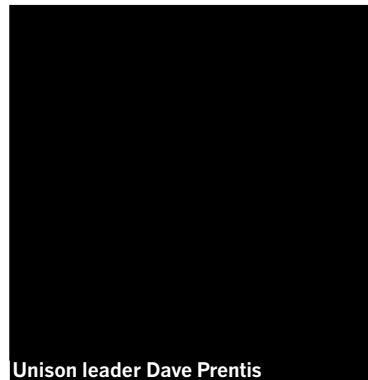
The Labour Party has already adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition. It describes antisemitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews”.

Yet Corbyn and the Labour Party have faced accusations of antisemitism for not accepting examples linked to the definition.

These include “claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour” as antisemitic.

And it has already been used against Palestine solidarity initiatives, such as Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and Israeli Apartheid Week.

Now the general secretaries of



Unison leader Dave Prentis

the Unison, the GMB and Usdaw unions have joined calls for Labour to adopt the IHRA definition “with all its examples.”

Unison leader Dave Prentis accused Labour of “an attempt to rewrite a widely-used, internationally accepted definition of antisemitism”.

He claimed that the examples don't ban criticism of Israel. “If you're not capable of criticising Israel without being antisemitic, then you're an antisemite—and we should make no special exceptions for you,” he wrote.

Prentis pointed out that Unison is affiliated to the Palestine

Solidarity Campaign (PSC). And he said the union's Labour Link committee “made up of Labour members and activists from across our union” had adopted the IHRA examples.

Yet PSC warns that the IHRA definition has been used to attack BDS and the right to call Israel an apartheid state.

The row has already been used by some to smear the PSC itself as antisemitic.

Unison activists have repeatedly voted to support BDS at a number of the union's annual conferences.

Votes at the GMB union's conferences have also banned its officials from going on visits organised by Trade Union Friends of Israel.

Such votes would likely fall foul of the IHRA definition's examples.

Jon Woods, branch chair Portsmouth City Unison, spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity. He said, “There's been a big push to make it harder for us to campaign for freedom for Palestine.”

“The examples of the IHRA definition do exactly that. If you give ground on this, they'll keep on coming.”



Big protest shows fury over racist law in Israel

Israel's Nation State law exposes the anti-Palestinian racism at the heart of the state, says **Nick Clark**

TENS OF thousands of Palestinians protested in the centre of Israeli capital Tel Aviv last Saturday against a racist constitutional law that discriminates against Arabs.

It was the latest protest against the new Nation State law, which says only Jewish people have the right to self-determination in Israel.

This implicitly denies the same right to the Palestinians who lived there for hundreds of years before Israel was founded in 1948.

Passed by the Israeli government last month, it entrenches racism against Arabs into the constitution and confirms Israel's existence as an apartheid state.

Most Palestinians in Israel are the descendants of those who stayed on their land after Israel's creation in 1948. Israel was founded through a process of ethnic cleansing in which Israeli militias systematically destroyed Arab villages and forced some 850,000 Palestinians to flee.

The campaign was designed to ensure the new state of Israel had a Jewish ethnic majority.

Palestinians who remained were officially given equal rights, but face an array of racist laws and practices.

The Nation State law effectively writes this discrimination into Israel's constitution.

Fears

It was passed amid Israeli politicians' fears that Palestinians will outnumber Jewish people when the population of Palestinian territories is taken into account.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1980, and right wing Israeli politicians want to do the same to the West Bank. Both Palestinian territories have been occupied by Israel since 1967.

Israel has reinforced its control over West Bank land by building huge settlements that act as commuter towns to Israeli cities. The occupation has also ensured that the West Bank's economy is tied to Israel's.

Yet the very presence of

BACK STORY

Israel's capital Tel Aviv has seen big protests against a new law

● The Nation State law enshrines discrimination against Arabs into Israeli law

● It says that only Jewish people have the right to self-determination in Israel

● Fear among politicians that Palestinians will outnumber Jewish people lies behind the law

● But many Jewish Israelis joined the Palestinians in protesting against it

Palestinians is seen by Israel as a threat to its existence.

The new law deals with this by describing settlements as a "national value" that the state must encourage, while denying Palestinians the same rights as Israelis.

Protesters in Tel Aviv responded by asserting their identity as Palestinians. Many protesters waved Palestinian flags.

Protester Omar Sultan told the Al Jazeera news network, "This law is against us, against the Arabic language, against peace, against our future in this land. We are the real people of this land."

Tellingly, Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu responded to protesters' identification as Palestinians by saying it is "no better evidence of the Nationality Law's necessity".

Yet despite this—and the deeply racist attitudes ingrained in Israeli society—many Jewish Israelis joined the Palestinians in protesting.

Few Israelis on the protest called for a single state. But the unified call for equality is a sign that Arabs and Jews could live together with equal rights in one state in all of Palestine.



On other pages...

Racist Donald Trump targets millions of migrants >>Page 16

PALESTINIANS LED the protest in Tel Aviv last Saturday. Placards read, 'Down with the nation-state law,' 'This is our homeland. This is our home. Arabic is our language,' and 'Resist Apartheid'

Britain's ally kills 29 children in Yemen

AS MANY as 29 children in Yemen were killed in an airstrike carried out last Thursday by a military coalition armed and funded by Britain.

The children were among 50 people killed in the bombing of a school bus. It is the latest atrocity in Yemen committed by close British ally Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabian forces attacked Yemen in 2015 to restore a regime that protects its interests and those of the US and its allies.

More than 13,000 civilians have been killed since then, most of them in Saudi Arabian airstrikes.

The war—and the blockade of Yemeni ports by the coalition—

has also caused widespread starvation.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed by starvation and malnutrition caused by the war, and a blockade on Yemeni ports by the Saudi coalition.

The charity Save the Children estimated that as many as 50,000 children died of hunger or disease in 2017.

Despite this, Britain continues to support Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen—and continues to sell it the bombs and equipment needed to carry it out.

Saudi Arabia is the largest buyer of British-made weapons. Britain has sold it more than £4 billion worth of arms since the start of its war on Yemen.

A child victim of Thursday's bombing

FIGURE IT OUT

72 percent of people in Zimbabwe are living in poverty, according to the World Bank

20 percent of Zimbabweans have emigrated since the early 1990s

28 percent of children in Zimbabwe suffer from stunted growth from a lack of adequate nutrition

Zimbabwean president Emmerson Mnangagwa's crackdown on opposition forces is causing jitters among the West and big business.

Mnangagwa claimed a narrow victory this month in the country's first election since the fall of dictator Robert Mugabe.

Movement for

Democratic Change (MDC) opponent Nelson Chamisa has filed a legal challenge.

Mnangagwa ousted Mugabe in a military coup last November.

He promised to push through free market reforms and normalise relations with the West—but wants to maintain control for the ruling Zanu PF party.

The Western firms

raising concerns don't care about Zimbabweans' democratic rights.

They are worried about Mnangagwa's ability to keep control and open up the Zimbabwean economy for them.

Some look to the MDC, which has adopted a free market programme, as a more stable alternative.

Western fears in Zimbabwe

Anti-Corbyn propoganda

WE ARE in the middle of the most effective domestic propaganda exercise of our lifetimes.

The sheer enormity of the lies being successfully perpetrated is truly astonishing. The Labour Party's most anti-racist leader ever has been relentlessly portrayed as a racist and antisemite.

The central motive behind this operation is absolutely clear—to prevent a Labour prime minister sympathetic to the Palestinian cause ever taking office.

We absolutely have to insist this is what it is all about.

Many of those involved in attacking Corbyn don't for a minute believe the propaganda they are helping spread. They see it as a way of weakening the left in the Labour Party.

If they cannot bring Corbyn and his supporters down, they at least hope to deal them serious damage.

There is a massive coordinated effort involved in disseminating the falsehoods.

What is astonishing is that there has been no serious attempt by any section of the mainstream media to actually investigate the campaign being mounted against Corbyn.

Instead they have repeated and amplified the lies with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

And what is most criminal is that this propaganda operation is being waged at the very time that the far right and fascists are on the rise across Europe.

John Newsinger
Brighton



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

The state will facilitate the far right threat in the US

POLICE ATTACKED an anti-fascist demonstration in downtown Portland, Oregon, on 4 August.

The day started positively with a rally at City Hall.

Fascists and racists mobilised on the city's waterfront in support of Nazi Joey Gibson, a prospective Republican candidate.

PopMob—a coalition of trade unionists, socialists and community groups—rallied over 1,000 people to oppose them.

Speakers warned about the dangers of the far right and the importance of opposing them on the streets.

There was a great deal of criticism aimed at local Democrat politicians who had told people to

stay at home. The rally closed with a call to march to the waterfront where Antifa were lining up to face the fascist rally.

The crowds swelled to over 2,000 people. The fascists had a only managed a few hundred.

The police lines all faced the anti-fascists.

They were intent on allowing the Nazis a free hand.

The standoff continued for around two hours until the police called for a dispersal of both demonstrations.

The fascists seemed to be leaving and the crowd cheered.

It was at this point, with some of our demonstration leaving, that the Police attacked. They used

stun grenades, rubber bullets, and tear gas to clear the way for the fascists to march through the city to waiting buses.

Several anti-fascists were injured and four were arrested.

On Sunday the Council of American Islamic relations and the Democratic Socialists of America released a joint statement demanding the police be held accountable for their actions.

It has become clear to people that neither the liberal establishment nor the state will protect people from the dangers of fascism.

Sean Cumming
Portland, US

Crisis centre should not have to rely on charity

GLASGOW AND Clyde Rape Crisis announced that it had to turn away women who needed its help last week. The decision came after a donation from a charity was withdrawn.

This funding gap has meant a member of staff being sacked. This put extra stress on staff and stretched their resources to breaking point.

Fortunately, other donations have been made to help plug the gap.

However, it raises a point—why should such a

vital service be reliant on precarious charitable donations?

The centre has reported a huge increase in the number of women and girls contacting it for help over the last few years, including asylum seekers, refugees and disabled people.

Such centres should be fully supported by government, not forced to rely on handouts from charities. End austerity and get rid of the Tories now.

Charlotte Ahmed
Glasgow

Trade Bills not in interests of the many

RECENTLY TWO trade bills were passed in the House of Commons which will have far reaching implications for all of us.

The first was Ceta, a trade deal between Canada and the EU. The second was Liam Fox's Trade Bill.

In Ceta, every type of service is up for tender unless otherwise stated. This includes the NHS.

Ceta also sets up an Investor Court Settlement.

This allows a corporation to sue a government if it passes any laws the corporation thinks may reduce the corporation's



Caroline Lucas

profits. Some 76 percent of people in Britain want the railways back in public hands. Under Ceta this would be very unlikely to happen.

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas tabled an amendment

to the Trade Bill stating that no trade agreement should be signed without a sustainability impact being presented to parliament.

One stipulation of the amendment was that there should be consultation of all those affected.

This should be a bare minimum but it was voted down by a majority of about 30.

Perhaps Socialist Worker readers should ask MPs why they did not support this amendment, as this will affect all our lives.

Phil Fletcher
St Albans

Just a thought...

Vote Labour to get change

NEOLIBERALISM and a great fall in living standards have caused an increase in racism and the growth of right wing groups.

Austerity will not be beaten until Labour forms a government.

Every day stolen by the Tories is a massive loss for a better future for the many in Britain.

The Tories are more damaging today than they were in 1979.

A Labour government under Corbyn is the only chance to save our NHS.

Dejan V Spasic
Exeter

The Daily Mail is a sexist rag

ONE OF the many outrages from the right wing Daily Mail rag is its latest attack on women.

It rubbished a survey of 2,000 women which found a majority viewed the term "housewife" as an "embarrassing relic".

Calling women housewives is a loaded term. It's a good thing the majority don't identify with it.

Megan Downey
By email

Northampton cuts hypocrisy

SOMEONE'S HAD their fingers in the pies (Socialist Worker online, bit.ly/NorthantsCC, 10 August).

Few councils have said they'll reduce salaries or expenses. It's always ordinary people first hit.

Paddy Hanrahan
On Facebook

Solidarity with Bookmarks

I BROUGHT them some solidarity biscuits in today on my way to the protest at the BBC (Socialist Worker online, bit.ly/Bookmarx).

Wayne Avrili
On Facebook

THE FAR right have shown their commitment to "freedom of speech."

Mark Goodyear
On Facebook

Gammon, begone!

LET ALL the refugees in and deport the gammon!

Ellen
On Twitter

RUSSIAN tanks poured across the Czechoslovakian border in the small hours of 21 August 1968. They had come to oust Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek, who had begun a liberalising reform process known as the Prague Spring.

His reforms had opened up space for a movement of workers and students that threatened Russia's rule.

But Russian boasts of “restoring order” in four days melted away within hours of the invasion. They had brought the upheavals of 1968, that year of global revolt against war, oppression—and capitalism—into the heart of officially “socialist” Eastern Europe.

Students took to the streets, fought tanks, and organised sit-ins at their universities. And to their surprise they quickly found that they had the support of workers as solidarity messages flooded in from workplaces across the country.

Jan Kavan, a leading student at Charles University in Prague, recalled how solidarity spread between campuses and workplaces. “The [student] occupation in November 1968 created fertile ground for student/worker agreements in defence of the Prague Spring,” he wrote.

“Students spoke daily in factories to thousands of workers. The defence agreements between the student union and all the Czech industrial trade unions were backed by the threat of a general strike.”

Across the country people tore down street signs—apart from some showing the way to Moscow—to confuse the troops.

Satellites

Czechoslovakia's constitution at the time declared that “all power in the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic is in the hands of working people”.

In reality, the working class had no more power than it did in the US, Britain or France. Stalinist Russia and its Eastern Bloc satellites were state capitalist societies with a ruling class—the state bureaucracy.

The Russian Revolution of 1917, led by Vladimir Lenin's revolutionary Bolshevik party, was a genuine socialist revolution. Working class people seized political power and for a short period ran society through workers councils known as soviets.

But the revolutionary wave that had spread across Europe didn't break through. And the working class that had made the Russian Revolution was decimated by imperialist invasion in the Civil War of the 1920s.

While the soviets were hollowed out, the Bolsheviks remained in charge of a huge state bureaucracy.

The power of this bureaucracy grew—with Joseph Stalin increasingly at the helm—and it began to develop its own set of class interests.

After the Second World War Russia imposed its state capitalist system on Eastern European states, such as Czechoslovakia. The ruling bureaucracy acted in a similar way to capitalist bosses of firms in the West.

Under capitalism, firms exploit workers to produce profit. Rival firms search for new ways to maximise these profits. While there was practically no competition within state capitalism, it was subject to international military and economic competition.



Protesters on the streets as Russian tanks rolled into Prague (top) Czechoslovakian Communist Party boss Alexander Dubcek (middle) Residents stand outside the smashed offices of Prague Radio (above)

A PROGRAMME on Czechoslovakian TV in April 1968 showed how this worked. Three Communist managers of state-owned companies were brought on. The first scenes show a half-finished, near derelict building site.

The newsreader tells the audience, “We convinced ourselves that the reconstruction of shops on Na Mustku Street in Prague, which should be finished in one and a half years, has, in truth, a very loose tempo.

“We asked the CEO of the Prague construction company if it wouldn't be finished sooner if a foreign firm joined the project.”

“Of course it's true,” confessed manager J Stohanzl. “The difference lies in the supplies of materials. These [Western] firms have more money, shorter delivery dates, and a freer choice of building materials.”

And next up for criticism was a newly-opened motorway where there were frequent accidents because the asphalt was poor quality.

But the third manager explained how his collective farm was competing with Western capital. “It's not difficult,” he proudly explains. “We had 390 workers, now we have 230, and we do more work—it's called better productivity”.

As a state capitalist economy, crisis and class struggle were built into Czechoslovakian society just as much as into Western free market societies. These contradictions would lay the basis for the Prague Spring.

Czechoslovakia had been one of Russia's most loyal states throughout the 1950s. All those who objected—including Communist Party members—faced brutal repression. But this stability was built by selling industrial products to more backward Eastern Bloc states. By the late 1950s its neighbours began to catch up and crisis hit the Czechoslovakian economy.

How would the bureaucracy and working class respond?

In 1960 Ladislav Mnacko published an explosive book called Delayed Reports. As editor of Slovak Communist Party daily Pravda, Mnacko had faithfully reported on the show trials and purges of the regime's opponents in the 1950s.

Now he told the stories of the victims and slammed the “ugly underbelly” that had “degraded and devalued great ideas and aims”. It wasn't just a sign of a guilty Stalinist

FIFTY YEARS SINCE UPRISING THAT FOUGHT STALINISM



PRAGUE SPRING

Czechoslovakia had been one of Stalinist Russia's most economically advanced and politically reliable satellite states. Then, in 1968, the monolith suddenly cracked open. **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** explains what happened



Workers and students building barricades against the tanks (left) Many try arguing with Russian soldiers (above) Protesters refused to leave the streets (right) Ludvik Vaculik (below, right)

conscience. The year Delayed Reports was published stagnation had turned to recession. He represented a growing faction in the bureaucracy that saw the need for economic reforms.

By introducing internal competition between state-owned enterprises, the reformers hoped to drive inefficient firms out of business and restore profitability.

First secretary of the Communist Party Antonin Novotny's hardline Stalinist leadership resisted implementing reforms—and the reformers didn't want to confront openly the conservatives. But two events outside of the bureaucracy pushed them into action.

Outspoken

Discontent was growing within the middle classes. At the 1967 Writers Union congress novelist Ludvik Vaculik denounced the regime in no uncertain terms. “During 20 years, not a single human question has been solved,” he said.

Novotny expelled Vaculik and three other of the most outspoken novelists and shut down their newspaper. Again the reformers wouldn't move. But a few months later a power cut at the Strahov student halls in Prague lit the spark of student revolt.

Around 1,500 students marched from Strahov towards the city centre, chanting, “We want light, we want more light”. They were met by brutal repression from the police and their leaders were forced into the army.

Novotny thought he could suppress the growing discontent through tried and tested Stalinist methods.

But the repression was too much even for loyal party members such as V Suchanek. “For me, an old Communist, it's something awful, when the socialist public safety corps throws itself at a peaceful student demonstration and beats it like the capitalist police,” he said.

And, most dangerously for the regime, the reformers began looking to allies outside of the bureaucracy. First students and writers, then Dubcek allies began to tour the factories. This helped them outmanoeuvre Novotny and replace him with Dubcek in January 1968. But the



reformers were forced to keep mobilising against their conservative opponents in the bureaucracy.

They organised thousands-strong student assemblies to force Novotny out of his remaining post as president.

One of the most outspoken reformers Josef Smrkovsky told students, “You have a right and a duty to be more revolutionary and radical than we, your fathers, are”. But he warned that their actions must be “responsible”.



Russian rulers looked on in horror as the situation spiralled out of the reformers' control

THE DUBCEK leadership's aim had always been to restore health to Czechoslovakia's stagnant regime—while keeping the country's rulers firmly in charge.

They had made good on some of their promises, such as abolishing censorship, but the movement took their democratic rhetoric at face value and wanted to go further.

And the working class began to question the regime's official socialist rhetoric and ask in whose interests it ruled.

The reformers increasingly resisted independent action from below. When Vaculik published the Manifesto of the 2000 Words, which called for people to purge conservatives, the Dubcek leadership denounced him.

The Russian rulers looked on in horror as the situation spiralled out of the reformers' control—and sent in the tanks.

The level of resistance from the workers' and students' movements meant the Russian rulers would have to bide their time and reimpose order slowly. Dubcek was allowed to hang on as first secretary until April 1969.

But the Dubcek leadership concluded that it would have to become a collaborationist government in order to stop its conservative opponents returning.

In an attempt to save its economic reforms, it signed up to the “Moscow Protocols” and jettisoned political reform.

Capitulation

This brought it into direct conflict with the workers' and students' movements. The Student magazine slammed the Moscow Protocols as “capitulation” and said they had “betrayed the republic”.

Trade union newspaper Prace noted, “Suddenly a new social movement surged forth...neither the journalists nor the scientists started.

“The new wave...was the clear and unequivocal voices of the factories and the overwhelming majority of the working class.”

The unions became the main force opposing the invasion, but their leaders weren't willing to assert demands independent of the ruling state bureaucracy.

A key turning point came when Dubcek dismissed leading reformer Smrkovsky.

Smrkovsky addressed the metal workers' union which threatened a general strike if he was removed.

Dubcek stepped in and threatened to take measures that “could appear to be undemocratic, but they will be in the interests of democracy”.

Smrkovsky buckled and distanced himself from the workers' movement, and the unions withdrew their threats of strikes.

Sporadic strikes continued and 100,000 people came out in Prague in the face of tear gas and baton charges on the first anniversary of the invasion.

But the mood was allowed to dissipate. While the Prague Spring went down to defeat, the invasion sent shockwaves among socialists across the world.

By exposing the sham of Stalinist Russia's “really existing socialism”, it opened up the possibility of building a genuine socialist alternative.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

DUNDEE

The socialist case for Scottish independence

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Wed 22 Aug, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELY

'Kill all the Gentleman'—book launch

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM

Do we need violence to get real social change?

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Zimbabwe—before and after Mugabe

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRIGHTON & HOVE

100 years since women won the vote

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Fascism—what it is and how to fight it

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Trump, Iran and the threat of wider war

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Brexit and the Tory crisis—how can the left gain?

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Marxism and religion

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS



A PALESTINIAN remembers the expulsion of 850,000 people from Palestine in 1948

Defending Corbyn... Palestine, antisemitism, and why Israel is a racist state

LONDON: SOUTH

Why Israel is a racist state
Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd,
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Road,
E3 5AT

PLYMOUTH

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

COLCHESTER

Capitalism vs the climate

Thu 30 Aug, 7.30pm,
Hythe Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

DERBY

Gun and knife crime—why are young people killing each other?

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

What would a Corbyn government look like?

Tue 21 Aug, 7.30pm,
Railway Hotel,
West St, DN1 3AA

EDINBURGH

The Labour Party—from Hardie to Corbyn

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

HUDDERSFIELD

The case against borders

Wed 22 Aug, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

HULL

What would a Corbyn government look like?

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
Cafe Licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

The lost revolution—Germany 1918 to 1923

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

The fight for LGBT+ liberation today

Wed 29 Aug, 7pm,
The Caledonia,
22 Caledonia St, L7 7DX

LONDON: HACKNEY

Why does capitalism love plastic?

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Police spies and state lies

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

What would a revolution look like?

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

The family and the origins of women's oppression

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
SE8 4RH

LONDON: NEWHAM

Angela Davis—women, race and class

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

How do we organise?

The united front in the 21st century

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

LONDON: WEST

The radical roots of Notting Hill Carnival

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

What can we learn from Antonio Gramsci?

Wed 22 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MEDWAY

Capitalism vs the climate

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

Marxism and religion

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
Commercial Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NORWICH

Technology, relationships and Artificial Intelligence

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Trump, trade wars and imperialism

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Corbynomics—can we have a democratically run society?

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

ROTHERHAM

The Brexit crisis—how do we get rid of the Tories?

Wed 29 Aug, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Sanctions and Universal Credit—the Tories' war on the poor

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
Victoria Hall
Methodist Church,
Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

After the Irish referendum—where next in the fight for abortion rights?

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

The Brexit crisis—how do we get rid of the Tories?

Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

WIGAN

Capitalism vs the climate

Thu 23 Aug, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and alienation

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

YORK

Marxism and medicine

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

LONDON

Love Music Hate Racism float at Notting Hill Carnival

Sun 26 and Mon 27 Aug,
Tickets available at
bit.ly/2uB7L5A

NATIONAL

Confronting racism and fascism—international conference

Sat 20 Oct, 10am-5.30pm
Friends House,
Euston Road,
NW1 2NB

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The importance of politics for the art of Orson Welles

Mark Cousins' documentary *The Eyes of Orson Welles* brings vividly to life the passions, politics and power of the filmmaker. He spoke to **Simon Basketter** about his work and how Welles still resonates today

Simon Basketter I became interested in Orson Welles from the BBC Arena interviews when I was young. You talk about watching his film *Touch of Evil* when you were young. What was your journey like?

Mark Cousins Yes, I saw those long Arena interviews with Welles when I was young, too. He was like someone from another era, seemed to have lived everywhere in the world, and talked about the biggest things in life—power and corruption, with a sense of the absurd.

His films have stayed with me since, and are a touchstone. I didn't, however, think I'd ever make a film about Welles—too daunting and intimidating.

SB In your film you separate out aspects of Welles as pawn, knight, king and jester. What lay behind those choices?

MC I had long wanted to structure a film in such an archetypal or chess piece way, but most of my subjects weren't big enough for such a robust shape. Welles is a colossus, so the approach suited him.

SB Was the use of Welles' sketches, drawings and paintings as a route to looking at how he viewed things accidental?

MC No. It was only when I saw the artworks that I thought there was something new to say about Welles. They sparked the idea for the film, and led to its themes.

SB What effect did immersing yourself in someone else's work have on you?

MC Welles became more of a human being. He's been a legend, a myth almost, but spending time with his sketches, doodles, drawings and letters helped me see the off-duty, playful man. Also, hearing stories from his daughter Beatrice helped humanise him.

SB Welles' politics are often portrayed as incidental, but you put them at the forefront. Why are they so important to his work?

MC Welles once said in an interview in Paris that his politics are more important than his art. He certainly spent as much time—on radio, in articles, in ghosting speeches and in lectures—talking about politics as he did about cinema.

I put his activism, his interest in social justice and his anti-racism first because they are Welles at his most admirable. They are the core of his convictions. He was



The Beggar of Prachatice by Conrad Felixmüller (1924)

PICTURE: THE GEORGE ECONOMOU COLLECTION

Twisted images of a shattered society

EXHIBITION

MAGICAL REALISM IN WEIMAR GERMANY

Tate Modern, Bankside,
London SE1 9TG
Free entry
Until 14 July 2019

THE TERM “magical realism” is today generally used to describe a form of literature and is strongly associated with writers in South America.

But the term was first coined

in Germany in 1925 to describe the work of a group of artists in the Weimar Republic that existed between the wars.

The First World War and the revolutionary wave that followed it affected all aspects of society.

After the slaughter, returning troops wanted a different world where such horror was a thing of the past.

Artists reacted by tearing up the old rule book and creating new ways to see the world.

Their work was often imbued

with political thought and imagery critical of capitalist society.

The works on display at the Tate Modern exhibition of Otto Dix and George Grosz vibrate with a hatred of capitalist inequality as well as the new form of realism.

This exhibition is part of a series that includes *Aftermath: Art in the Wake of World War One* which shows at Tate Britain until 16 September.

Noel Halifax



Orson Welles in 1937

radical. His BBC talk on the police, for example, where he advocates curbs on them and oversight of their crimes, was daring for such an elite man on establishment television.

His hunting down of “Officer X”, a cop who blinded a young African American soldier, was passionate and brave.

SB What would Welles' “muscular liberalism” make of today's muscular illiberalism?

MC He'd be boiling with rage.

Welles' imagination was formed by the 1920s and 1930s—the era of European fascism. That same imagination would easily understand Modi in India, Orban in Hungary, as well as Trump and Boris Johnson.

SB How would you like your film to change our way of seeing Welles?

MC I'd like people to feel that they have snuck into the cathedral of his imagination through the back door.

BOOK

REASON IN REVOLT

by Alan Gibbons

Available from Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop

“REVOLUTIONS would be a lot more successful if we could make them with the people of the future, not the flawed, self-centred specimens we have now,” says Bolshevik soldier Pavel in Alan Gibbons's fictional account of the Russian Revolution.

It is 1918. The revolution is faced with enemies everywhere. The old ruling class is regrouping.

Escaped Tsarist generals lead the White armies.

The revolutionary government faces successive crises—and a civil service that opposes its every move.

The characters we saw in the first volume, *Winds of October*, are now running or defending the fledgling workers' state.

The consequences of their choices are life and death. They ask how to feed children when rations



in the factories are down to 700 calories per day.

Other questions include how to maintain morale in the factories when shortages of materials means the loss of production and jobs?

Can the corrupting effect be halted by the internal police force, the Cheka, which encourages the most brutal behaviour?

What will happen to the goals of the revolution?

The reader will find little relief in this story. The exception is the characters who, with the new addition of a Jewish Bolshevik, encapsulate a different kind of society.

It's one in which everyone, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or nationality, play an equal role.

The characters are flawed, but they are fighting to break the old order.

Their solidarity of purpose, courage and self-reflection provide glimpses of light in an otherwise darkening tale.

Sheila McGregor



THE scale of the threat from Tommy Robinson and the far right today is in many ways bigger than that even of Oswald Mosley and his Blackshirts in the 1930s.

So it's very important to look at the history of resistance to fascism. I'm glad people want to emulate the work of the Anti Nazi League (ANL) that I played a leading role in.

The organisation was the direct result of the Battle of Lewisham on 13 August 1977—a watershed that pushed back the insurgent fascist National Front (NF).

The NF had planned to march through Clifton Rise, south east London, which had a large black population.

Opposed by much of the left, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) had argued that people should protest there, rather than several miles away.

In the event, our counter-demonstration broke the fascists' march into pieces. It was a major humiliation for them.

That success was possible because of the anti-fascist activities of the International Socialists, forerunners of the SWP, in the preceding four or five years.

Applaud

After the Battle of Lewisham the phone in the SWP national office rang constantly.

People were saying to us, “We applaud what you did with the black community, trade unionists and others in Lewisham.

“We don't agree with the SWP on other issues, but want to be with you fighting the Nazis.”

It was clear that we now had a responsibility to build a broad-based organisation against the fascists.

Socialists in the 1970s faced a challenge that we had not met since the days of Mosley.

But the challenge from the NF this time around was on a wider geographical scale—and it was mostly electoral.

In the 1973 West Bromwich by-election the NF's national organiser Martin Webster had gained 16 percent of the vote.

The fascists made breakthroughs in other by-elections.

And in May 1977, the Nazis got 120,000 votes in local elections across London, mounting a challenge to the Liberals' position as the third party in British politics.

The central strand of the ANL's strategy was to try and separate hardline Nazis from the softer racists that were now voting for them.

The NF's growing support came mainly from people who weren't Nazis, but had accepted racist arguments.

And that's why unequivocally labelling the NF as fascists was

HOW THE NAZI NATIONAL FRONT WAS STOPPED

Labour's John McDonnell's recent call for a movement “emulating the work of the Anti Nazi League” was important. Paul Holborow, who co-founded the organisation, looks at its history and its legacy



Paul Holborow

so important to us. Whenever racist arguments were raised, we wanted anti-fascists to be confident to challenge them instead of just not liking what they heard.

We wanted to put an anti-racist argument into every workplace, school, college and estate.

To implement the strategy we constructed a national steering committee that embraced the different elements of the left that were on board.



People told us kids were only interested in music and wouldn't march

Ernie Roberts, the AEU engineering union assistant general secretary, played a key role in the ANL from the beginning.

The trade union movement was much more vibrant then and contained a strong rank and file movement of ordinary members who were prepared to act.

The Indian Workers' Association and many African-Caribbean organisations also joined.

The ANL drew together the left of the Labour Party in the

form of Neil Kinnock, who was a leading left winger at the time, and Peter Hain. Nigel Harris and I sat on it for the SWP. That broad structure meant that wherever the Nazis stood, we could go to that area to build opposition to them.

AT the 1978 Ilford North by-election, in east London, we called around 2,000 people out to canvas the whole constituency in just three hours.

That involved Labour Party members, SWP members, trade unionists—and most importantly people who weren't aligned but were anti-fascist and anti-racist.

As a leadership, we encouraged local ANL members to organise their own events, which meant we had impressive local and national initiatives.

Every union developed workplace groups against the Nazis—civil servants against the Nazis, teachers against the Nazis, and so on.

On one particular day some 60,000 Yorkshire miners went to work wearing ANL stickers on their helmets.

That initiative was the result of a Yorkshire conference where myself and miners' union leader Arthur Scargill had together spoken against the fascists.

The ANL working jointly with the unions like this is just one illustration of how it was built on the ground.

Confidence

Together with the Rock Against Racism organisation, founded a year before the ANL, we organised a massive carnival in April 1978.

Around 80,000 people from all over the country came to Victoria Park in east London.

Many of those who came had grown in confidence by confronting racist ideas over the past year.

We always aimed for a high level of political message.

For that first carnival we arranged to assemble five miles away in Trafalgar Square.

The point was to march through the heart of NF areas in east London—Hoxton, in Hackney, and the top of Brick Lane, in Tower Hamlets.

People told us that kids would only be interested in the music and would go straight to the park rather than march.

And, at 11 o'clock, Trafalgar Square was totally deserted.

But within half an hour it was completely full with thousands streaming into it.

It had a similar feeling to the recent London demonstration against Donald Trump.

Well over 60,000 people marched those five miles to Victoria Park.

There were very few mass confrontations with the NF in the early years because

the fascists were playing the respectable card.

But once the Nazis realised their electoral strategy wasn't paying off, they returned to streets.

But by then we had involved large numbers of people in ANL activity and the logic was not to waste that energy by allowing the fascists to march.

There were some on the left who opposed us. After the Battle of Lewisham the Labour Party general secretary had denounced us as “red fascists”.

And left winger Michael Foot said there was no difference between the SWP and the NF.

Their argument was basically that the fascists will go away if you ignore them.

But a significant number of people just didn't buy that idea.

The ANL's propaganda against the NF was hugely successful in attracting a wide layer of people who saw the need to oppose the fascists but were uncertain about physically confronting them.

If you had been active in your local area, you grew in confidence.

That meant that if the Nazis tried to march in your town, your ideas about confronting them could shift in our direction.

ATINY example of this happened in Middleton Road, in Hackney, where we had leafleted against the NF. When Nazis tried to stage a little demonstration, hundreds of local people came out against them.

The big flashpoints on the street were in Leicester and Southall in west London.

After the Nazis announced their intention to march in Leicester—where they had previously scored highly in local elections—there was a spontaneous response from the local ANL.

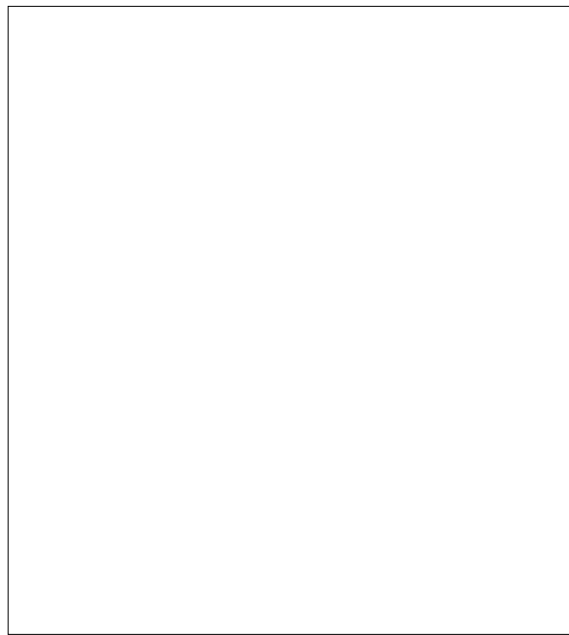
In Southall, the council offered the NF the town hall for a public meeting in the run-up to the 1979 general election.

After the council refused to withdraw its invitation, it was clear that this would be a major flashpoint.

Thousands of anti-racists poured into Southall to join the huge community response.

But the police Special Patrol Group ran riot, injuring many people—and killing teacher and SWP member Blair Peach.

By this point the ANL had



Marching in Southall, west London, in the wake of the huge demonstration against the NF in April 1979



begun to split the Nazis from the soft racists. The NF's Martin Webster put it best, “The sheer presence of the ANL had made it impossible to get NF members on the streets, had dashed recruitment and cut away at their vote.”

The ANL was successful because we knew our history.

The template was Cable Street when in 1936 people had united to stop Mosley's Blackshirts from marching in the East End.

But we also came from a different tradition than most of left. The Communist Party—which still had significant weight at the time—sought respectability at the expense of action.

We learnt from the revolutionary Leon Trotsky, who argued for the need to build a united front against fascism.

Today, Stand Up To Racism, Unite Against Fascism and Love Music Hate Racism are active and provide focuses for opposition to the far right.

The founding members of the ANL are all supporters of these organisations, which stand in its tradition.

Challenge

But with the scale of the challenge we now face, we need to broaden and deepen those three organisations.

Anything that John McDonnell can do to assist us in this process of extending unity is hugely welcome. We need to get together to create a genuine mass movement that takes on one of most serious fascist challenges since the 1930s.

READ MORE

● **Lewisham 1977—forty years on from when we smashed the Nazi National Front**
bit.ly/lewisham77

● **Blair Peach: killed by police**
bit.ly/peachsouthall

● **Remembering Rock Against Racism—how**

music helped to fight the Nazis
bit.ly/RockAR

● **Taking the fight to the Nazis in Wood Green**
bit.ly/WoodGreen



COMMENT

A long and sordid history—Labour's support for Israel

The Labour Party has extended the hand of friendship to Israel for a century. Nick Clark looks at why that matters today

NOT SO long ago enthusiastic support for Israel was essential for ambitious Labour MPs who wanted to get ahead.

Now, in Jeremy Corbyn, Labour has by far the most pro-Palestinian leader it's ever had.

Corbyn's lifelong support for Palestine has become the basis for the outrageous accusations of antisemitism hurled at him from the right.

The assault is more than a disagreement over foreign policy. Labour's long-standing support for Israel and its role in the Middle East says something fundamental about the party itself.

In fact, Labour declared support for the idea of a state of Israel three months before the Tory British government did in 1917.

This support was expressed in the language of solidarity with the Jewish colonisers in Palestine. These were people who had fled antisemitism and persecution in Europe, and hoped to set up a new state—Israel—in Palestine.

Progressive

Labour supporters of this project—Zionism—apparently saw the colonies as a budding progressive society.

That the creation of this new society meant the dispossession of the Palestinian Arabs was downplayed.

This support for Israel was tied up with support for the British Empire.

Palestine became part of the Empire when the winners of the First World War divided up the Middle East among themselves.

Zionist colonisers got support from Britain by promising to act as a loyal population against the Arabs who had been promised independence.

Palestine was hugely important to the British Empire. The Empire was hugely important to the

WAR CRIMINALS—Tony Blair shakes hands with Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu

BACK STORY

Jeremy Corbyn is under pressure to drop his support for the Palestinians

● His stance puts him at odds with the majority of the party's MPs

● The right are trying to use this as a means of getting rid of him

● The left must not give ground over Palestine

British state. And managing the British state is the Labour Party's ultimate goal.

So Labour politicians enthusiastically supported both the Empire and Zionism.

Once Britain left Palestine, friendly relations with the new state of Israel continued.

With Israel soon to become a key ally of the US in the Middle East, Britain—and Labour—backed it to the hilt.

Not even the Six Day War of 1967—when Israel seized control of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem—broke Labour's support.

Left wing Labour MP Eric



Not even the Six Day War broke Labour's support for the state of Israel

Heffer even urged Israel to hold on to the land it had taken. Those on the Labour left were once some of Israel's strongest supporters.

This began to change gradually. Israel was viewed increasingly as the oppressor of the Palestinians by a layer of party members.

Yet Labour's leadership became increasingly pro-Israel—especially under Tony Blair. Blair fully supported the US's and Israel's wars in the Middle East. But a mass anti-war movement cemented support for Palestinians among swathes of Labour's membership.

Corbyn has spent his lifetime in that movement. Yet he now struggles to defend his support for the Palestinians from accusations of antisemitism.

Racist

Some of his allies want him to accept a definition of antisemitism that says it's antisemitic to call Israel racist. Members of Corbyn's shadow cabinet have said that a Labour government would maintain a “strong” relationship with Israel.

They're not just trying to fend off the right's attacks now. They've also got their eye on the possibility of a future Labour government.

To most of them it is unthinkable that a Labour government would damage the British state by breaking from Israel entirely. This is the biggest pressure on Corbyn—and the biggest threat to his support for Palestine.



Trump attacks 20 million immigrants

by ALISTAIR FARROW

IN THE latest racist attack by Donald Trump's White House, millions of migrants could be banned from US citizenship if they've claimed state benefits in the past.

The planned laws shows the Trump administration is broadening its assault from undocumented migrants to all migrants.

The new rules are being pushed by Stephen Miller, a key adviser to Trump. Miller was previously a legal adviser to the racist chief attorney Jeff Sessions.

Other taints on his CV include being the key author of Trump's infamous Muslim travel ban, and helping to pen the president's inaugural speech.

Immigration lawyers and public health researchers have estimated that the changes could affect some 20 million people.

They would mean that even people who had used the national health insurance scheme—commonly known as “Obamacare”—would be affected.

Nazis shamed in Washington

THOUSANDS OF people drowned out just over 20 Nazis and white supremacists in Washington, US, on Sunday. Chants of “Nazis go home!” and “Shame! Shame! Shame!” rang out.

The far right demo had been called on the anniversary of the Charlottesville Unite the Right protest during which anti-fascist Heather Heyer was killed.

“We have a huge racial problem in our city and our country,” said Heather's mother Susan Bro. “We have got to fix this, or we'll be right back here in no time.”

Recent migrants to the US are frequently locked out of decent jobs—by racist bosses and the arbitrary rules of the immigration system.

This means they are often forced to rely on benefits.

The Trump administration

has already made obtaining a “Green Card”—the right to indefinite leave to remain in the US—more difficult. And it has also made progressing from holding a Green Card to becoming a citizen harder.

The new rules do not need

Congressional approval. This is because of a precedent set by Democratic president Bill Clinton's interpretation of immigration laws.

The “public charge” law was used in 1999 by Clinton to take away migrants'

access to cash benefits. Now the Trump administration wants to extend it to include migrants who have accessed other types of benefits.

Disgustingly, this includes the Child Health Insurance Program.

This follows a pattern of the Trump administration—seizing on previous Democratic legislation as justification to push the racist assault even further.

It's a warning that any concession to the racist onslaught that the Democrats make now could have a devastating affect in the future.

Praising the proposed legislation Trump said, “This legislation will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century.

“This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and puts America first.”

His new policy forces up to 20 million people to choose between a chance at being allowed to stay where they have built their lives or accessing essential health services.

The proposed law flows from the Trump administration's “zero tolerance” policy.

The widening of the assault shows why there must be no let up in the fight against Trump's racist crackdown.

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Fertility firms harvest a profit misleading women

A new study shows how the fertility industry charges inflated prices for egg freezing treatment—and manipulates success rates, reports **Sarah Bates**

WOMEN ARE being misled into paying thousands of pounds for fertility treatment that might not work, according to a new study.

Writing in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, leading experts said firms aren't making public the limitations of certain treatments.

The paper focused on "egg freezing", a process where unfertilised eggs are harvested from women's ovaries then stored for later use.

Trade is booming. Just nine years ago there were 564 egg-freezing cycles performed in the US. By 2016 that number had shot up to 8,892.

But the actual success rate is low, with just 3.3 percent of frozen eggs for women aged over 36 resulting in a live birth.

If a woman decides she wants a child the eggs can be thawed, fertilised and implanted into her uterus—a procedure commonly known as IVF.

The process works better if eggs are frozen when a woman is in her twenties. But many women aren't doing that—partly because the procedure is being marketed as more successful than it actually is.

The Harley Street Fertility Clinic in central London boasts that new advances mean a survival rate of over 90 percent.

The average age for a woman to give birth to her first child is getting later. In England it currently stands at 28 years old.

Women might decide to have children later in life for any number of reasons.

For instance, women are constantly being told they should wait to have a baby until they're in a "suitable" relationship.

Childcare

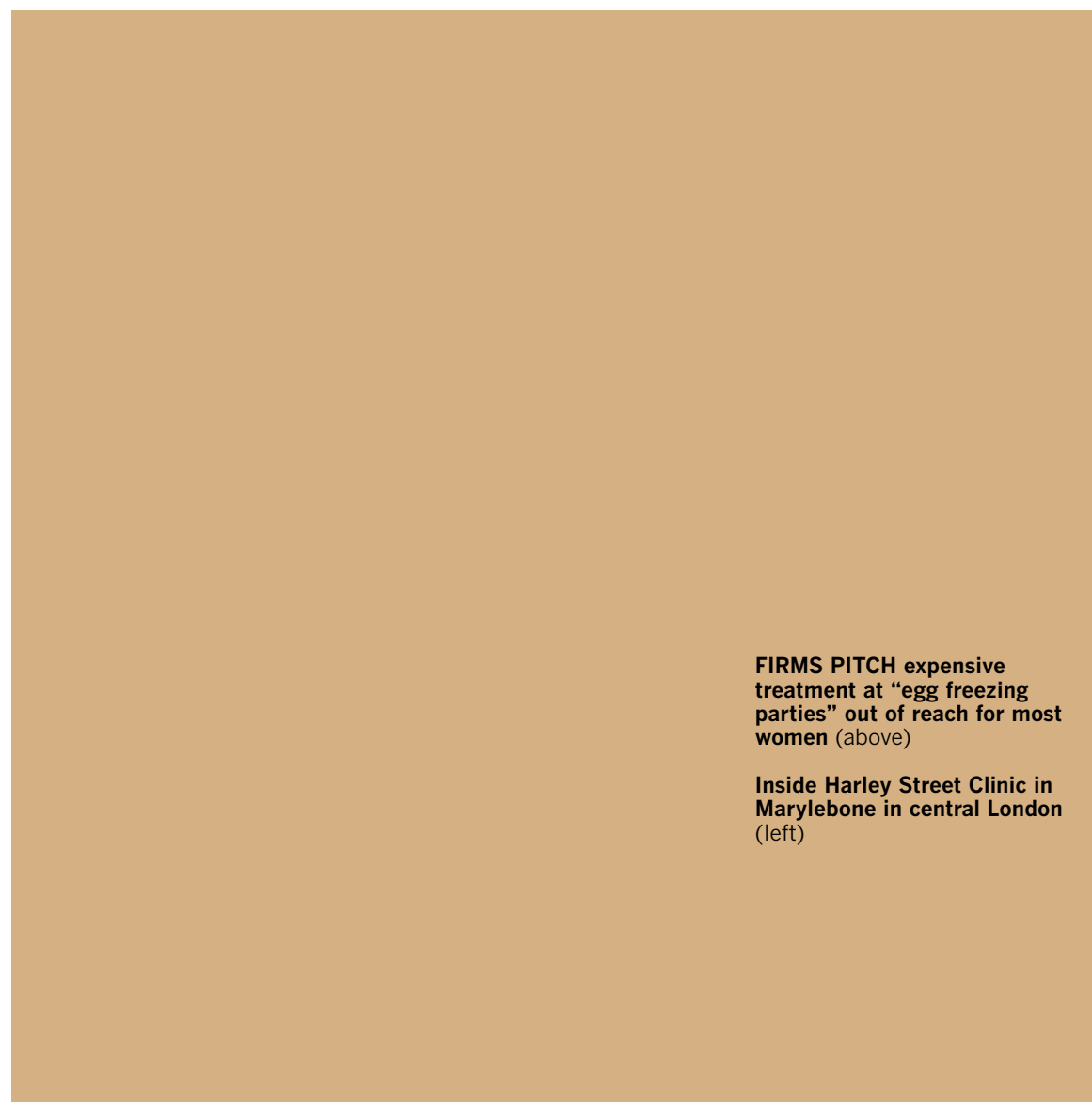
Years of stagnating wages, alongside a rising cost of living mean many can't afford to raise a child. Almost a decade of Tory austerity has decimated child benefits, affordable housing and quality childcare options.

And many women feel pressured to reach a certain level in their career before taking time off to have a baby.

Egg freezing is often sold as a fashionable lifestyle choice for the 21st century career woman.

EggBanxx is a US company that freezes eggs, and offer loans to pay for the procedure. Its slogan is "Lean in. But freeze first". It hosts "egg freezing parties" where women sip champagne and have expensive treatments pitched to them.

Some companies such as



FIRMS PITCH expensive treatment at "egg freezing parties" out of reach for most women (above)

Inside Harley Street Clinic in Marylebone in central London (left)

Rationing in NHS means treatment is out of reach

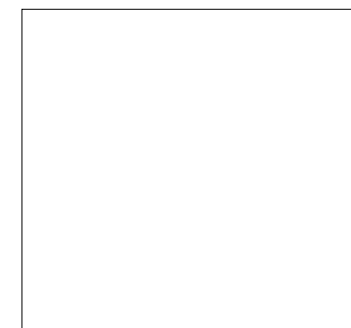
A WHOLE host of fertility treatments lie out of the reach of most ordinary women.

NHS funding for IVF is often described as a "postcode lottery", with different areas offering very different levels of access to treatment.

NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) decide on the level of funding. They dictate the number of IVF attempts a woman can have and what criteria she has to meet.

These added loopholes can include restrictions around the Body Mass Index (BMI) and smoking status of both partners. And CCGs can deny access based on how many children a couple already has.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published guidelines in 2013,



Cuts mean the same treatment isn't available across the country

recommending women under 40 should be offered three cycles of IVF.

In reality, only 12 percent of CCGs offer this, a further 24 percent offer two cycles and an overwhelming majority—61 percent of CCGs—offer just one cycle. Some 3 percent offer nothing at all.

And access has been shrinking—in 2013 double the number of CCGs offered the recommended three cycles.

Having children shouldn't just be left to those who can afford it—anyone who wants fertility treatment should be able to access it.

Limiting care on the NHS does nothing to combat the misinformation spread by private companies wanting to make a profit.

It makes women—those who can afford it—more likely to turn to the privateers of Harley Street and elsewhere.

It's a disgrace that women have restricted access to services just because of where they live.

We should fight for comprehensive fertility care, free at the point of need.

Costs fall on women

1 Egg freezing doesn't get any government funding, but the cost can run into the tens of thousands.

Women in their late 30s would need about 30 eggs to have a good chance of getting pregnant. This could cost £15,000, and annual storage fees of £400.

2 Private firms are able to charge their own rates.

The cost of the initial consultation at Harley Street Fertility Clinic in central London is £200. Subsequent 20-minute appointments cost up to £160. It's usual for each harvesting of eggs to cost up to £4,000.

3 Companies offer a block booking of a 3-cycle treatment.

This treatment is offered for just shy of £10,000 or a subscription system of £400 a month. That's just the cost of freezing and storing eggs. IVF is even more pricey.

Facebook and Apple even offer it as part of employment benefits.

Bosses may want to appear progressive by offering reproductive treatments, but there's an implicit admission they're forcing women to choose between careers and children.

Egg freezing, and other fertility treatments do give some women the ability to have children they want.

But it's left to unscrupulous private companies to market these services at inflated prices, and put forward dishonest expectations.

Egg freezing is an individual solution to a social question—a woman should be able to have a child whenever she wants.

But Tory welfare and public service cuts, the lack of free childcare, and old-fashioned sexism at work, mean that fertility bosses are able to profit off women's bodies.

IN BRIEF

Telecoms workers win over contracts

TELECOMS COMPANY BT has agreed to stop using a form of agency contract following a campaign by the CWU union.

BT bosses have said they will end the use of "Pay Between Assessment Contracts," where workers are paid by an employment agency.

The use of agencies allows bosses to recruit workers on worse pay and conditions than those employed directly by the company.

The announcement came after talks with the CWU, part of its "close the gap" campaign. The CWU says the contracts will be phased out by 2019, and agency workers offered permanent employment with BT.

Scots prepare for Dundee indy demo

THOUSANDS OF people were expected to join the latest of a series of marches for Scottish independence this Saturday in Dundee.

It follows big demonstrations in Glasgow, Dumfries and Inverness.

They have shown the thirst for independence among wide numbers of working class people.

A giant march is scheduled for 6 October in Edinburgh.

●Saturday 18 August, assemble 12 noon, Baxter Park, Dundee

Fresh union drive at Sky broadcaster

THE BECTU union has launched a new campaign—"Moxie"—aimed at recruiting more members at the Sky media firm.

The union says it wants to build on its existing membership at Sky.

Fringe Festival agrees to new code

A NEW code of conduct has been agreed between the Bectu union and the Fringe Society. It covers rates of pay, hours of work, and other workplace issues for people employed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Welsh march for our martyred dead

ACTIVISTS WERE set to join a march to remember the 1911 Llanelli rail strike in the west Wales town on Saturday.

The 1911 strike was the first national railway strike—and saw workers killed in retaliation for the occupation of Llanelli rail station.

Speakers will include Steve Hedley from the RMT union, Mark Drakeford from the Labour Party, Leanne Wood from Plaid Cymru, Nimisha Trivedi from Stand Up To Racism and Martin Chapman from the Socialist Workers Party.

●Assemble Saturday 18 August, 1.30pm, Llanelli railway station

MANUFACTURING

Crane builders' walkout aims for higher pay offer

CRANE manufacturing workers struck on Thursday and Friday of last week over an "inadequate" pay offer.

Unite and GMB members at the Liebherr workplace in Sunderland are planning a huge series of strikes that should see them walk out for 16 days in the next five weeks.

Workers were left bewildered after last-minute talks resulted in bosses offering a worse deal than the one they were striking against.

The original pay offer was a 3 percent rise, a £150 lump sum and an extra day off

over the Christmas period. The bosses' later offer was a 3.2 percent rise, with Christmas Eve off with pay as an additional holiday—bringing the total rise to 3.3 percent.

Mike Sanderson, Unite regional officer, said "The removal of the £150 one off lump sum means this is a worse offer."

"Our members have accepted below-inflation pay awards as management said that business was not so good."

"Business has now picked up and the promises made have not been honoured."



UNITE AND GMB union members united on the picket line in Sunderland

POST

Unofficial post strikes can deliver big results

by NICK CLARK

SOME 150 postal workers staged an unofficial strike at a Royal Mail delivery office in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, last Thursday.

The strikers walked out at around 9am and didn't return until past 1pm, affecting deliveries in Grimsby, Cleethorpes and the surrounding towns.

The workers' CWU union said the walkout was caused by bullying and harassment by managers at the office. It is the latest in a series of walkouts over similar issues at Royal Mail workplaces across Britain.

The strike came just under a week after Royal Mail workers struck unofficially at the West Park delivery office in Plymouth.

They took action after bosses reorganised work and delivery routes.

And earlier that week CWU members in Sunderland gathered outside their workplace to "discuss issues in the office and debate the next steps".

Recent walkouts at Royal Mail offices have centred



WORKERS SAY no to bullying in Grimsby

on claims of bullying by managers. Royal Mail workers increasingly face longer deliveries and pressure from bosses to work more "efficiently" in the wake of privatisation.

Royal Mail bosses promised a "cultural change" in management attitudes in an agreement that headed off a major dispute last year.

Yet at the CWU postal conference in April, several delegates spoke of how they'd seen no difference.

Workers sent messages of support and solidarity to the

strikers in Grimsby on the CWU's Facebook page.

One said, "It's happening all over the country now. Bullying from local management a familiar story."

Another said he had overheard management in his area tell each other, "They've just had a massive pay rise, now it's time we made them work for it."

Another message of support said, "We should have a national walkout."

"The way management are treating delivery staff is appalling."

HEALTH SERVICE

Tories face backlash over paltry pay deal for doctors

A GROWING number of health workers are frustrated with Tory proposals that mean they will only receive below-inflation pay rises.

The Tories have chosen to ignore the latest set of pay proposals from the Doctors and Dentists Remuneration Body (DDRB) pay review body.

The pay offer includes a 2 percent increase for junior doctors.

Consultants would receive a 1.5 percent increase, plus 0.5 percent uplift related to clinical excellence awards.

Real terms pay cuts for doctors and other health workers will plunge the NHS deeper into a staffing crisis.

Some 67 percent of doctors reported that they faced rota gaps where they work last year.

Anthea Mowat from the BMA doctors' organisation said, "The NHS faces severe

shortages of doctors across all specialties.

"It beggars belief that the ministers have failed to recognise the contribution declining pay has had on the ability to recruit and retain doctors and the significant damage to morale."

This frustration is shared by workers across the NHS.

The GMB union is balloting its members in health for strikes.

And the leaders of the Unison union and the Royal College of Nursing face a backlash from members after misleading members over a shoddy pay deal.

The BMA should ballot its members for industrial action over pay.

The junior doctors' strikes against damaging new contracts in 2016 showed the potential to mobilise support for a fightback across the hospitals.

PRIVATISATION

Outsourced health workers could strike for pay parity

HUNDREDS OF Unison union members at the Royal Bolton Hospital in Greater Manchester could walk out in a fight for higher pay.

Bosses have not offered the outsourced cleaners, caterers and other support staff the same pay increases as other NHS workers. They are employed by Bolton iFM, a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Wholly-owned subsidiaries are a dangerous new form of privatisation in NHS England.

While trusts remain the sole shareholders, the companies are a bridge to full-blown selloffs down the line. When Bolton iFM was set up two

years ago, bosses promised pay increases would mirror those in the NHS. But this shows that the real aim is to undermine wages and terms and condition to make it more attractive for private companies.

Tim Ellis, Unison regional manager, said, "There's huge anger and a 100 percent request for strike unless something satisfactory is agreed."

A recent victory against plans to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in nearby Warrington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust shows its possible to take on the outsourcing bosses.

RESTAURANTS

More sites join TGI Fridays tips campaign

WORKERS AT three sites of the TGI Fridays restaurant chain were set to walk out on Friday 24 August as part of an ongoing dispute over tip payments.

The sites involved in this round of strikes are Milton Keynes, and Covent Garden

and Stratford City in London.

The Unite union members' dispute centres on a new tipping policy.

Workers were given just two days' notice that tips given via card payments would go to kitchen workers to top up their wages.

Tips traditionally go to waiters, and are needed to bump up their low pay.

Bosses have tried to use this to divide workers.

Incorporating demands for a living wage for all workers into the dispute could forge greater unity.

CLEANERS

Migrant workers are central to class fight

by ALISTAIR FARROW

TWO GROUPS of mainly migrant workers are waging a fight against low pay in London.

Outsourced workers at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Kensington and Chelsea council struck on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

Around 40 people joined a lively, noisy picket outside the council.

Tory councillor Catherine Faulks and a senior council officer came to negotiate with picketing workers.

The United Voices of the World (UVW) union members are fighting for demands including the London Living Wage of £10.20 an hour and decent sick pay. Mirna Holguin, a cleaner at the council, said, "I work 11 hours every day to earn a bit more, because what they pay is not enough."

"We need to earn more to be able to live with dignity."

At the picket line people asked the council officer if he felt responsible. "Our responsibility is through a service contract, not an employment contract," he said.

Council bosses had said that they would bring cleaners in-house, leading the UVW union to declare partial



STRIKERS PICKET at Kensington and Chelsea council

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

victory. But the council has backed off from the pledge.

Petros Elia from UVW told Socialist Worker, "The council released a new statement saying they would have to wait to review the service contract. We have to get the bosses to commit to the workers' demands."

The demands are similar across the two workplaces. Outsourcing means cutting wages and conditions to the

minimum. And bosses can deny knowledge because technically someone else is doing the cutting for them.

Cleaner Fatima Djalo's salary has hardly changed since she started working at the MoJ in 2009.

She told Socialist Worker, "We've had about an extra pound in those nine years. Every six months there's change at the MoJ. There's new furniture, new floors."

"But every time we ask contractor OCS for a raise they say the MoJ sets the rates of pay in the service contract it agrees with them."

"We earn about £1,000 a month. That's only enough for a single room in a house. I can't support my family. At the end of the month I have £20."

"The Ministry of Justice should give justice to us."

More strikes are scheduled for September.

OIL RIGS

Action on the North Sea

NORTH SEA oil rig workers struck for 12 hours on Monday and a 24-hour strike is planned for Monday 20 August.

The three platforms affected are Alwyn, Dunbar and Elgin.

The workers are members of the Unite union and are striking against changes to their rotas that would see them working three weeks on and three off.

That's compared to the two weeks on and two off shift pattern they work at the moment.

The employer is the Total energy firm.

■ **WORKERS AT** Total's Shetland gas plant have voted to accept a deal on pay by 65 percent on a 94 percent turnout.

They voted on Friday to accept the improved pay offer after having voted for strikes in June.

The new deal leaves workers' shift patterns unchanged.

They work three weeks on and three off.

The Unite union said it had secured from bosses "a commitment not to negatively change the rota for the next three years".

■ **GMB AND** Unite union members on the Equinor Mariner oil rig have voted to accept an improved deal over pay, terms and conditions.

Some 75 percent of GMB union members and 68 percent of Unite union members voted for the new deal.

CIVIL SERVICE

Vote to reject the unjust Ministry of Justice pay plan

THE CIVIL service workers' PCS union is urging its members who work for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to reject a pay plan tied to cuts to working conditions.

MoJ bosses have offered workers an average pay increase of 11 percent spread over five years.

This is well below inflation—effectively a pay cut—and comes after nearly a decade of miserly 1 percent annual increases.

The plan also comes with new contracts that increase hours and cut overtime, sick pay and motor and mileage allowances.

The PCS was set to ballot its members in the MoJ from Wednesday of this week, and is urging workers to vote no.

The union also plans to take

legal action alongside other civil service unions against the government.

It says the government failed to consult unions properly over civil service pay packages for 2018-19 and wants a judicial review.

It comes after PCS members at government departments across Britain voted to strike over pay, but failed to meet the turnout threshold demanded by Tory anti-union laws.

If MoJ workers vote to reject the pay plan, they could launch a fight that takes the lead in the fight to smash the pay cap across the civil service.

And they can unite with the low-paid cleaners in the UVW union who are already fighting back.

TRANSPORT



WORKERS AT a recent strike at Ruislip depot PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Rail workers keep up safety battle as fares soar—again

WORKERS ON Northern Rail have announced three new strikes as bosses "make a mockery" of negotiations.

The RMT union members are set to walk out on 25 August, 1 and 8 September.

The action will involve conductors, conductor instructors and train drivers and is the latest action over the implementation of Driver Only Operation (DOO).

DOO services will make train travel unsafe and inaccessible for many passengers, and transport workers have been fighting against it for over two years.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "Northern Rail want to run nearly half a million trains a year without a safety critical guard on board in a

move that would wreck both safety and access to services.

"They should listen to their frontline staff and pull back from that plan immediately."

The struggle against DOO—which the Tories are desperate to roll out—has taken place on six rail networks, with most reaching agreement with the RMT already.

A strike on South Western Railway set for last Saturday was called off to allow further talks.

The battles on the rail come as a study by the RMT showed fares increasing twice as fast as wages.

Next year's fare increase was set to be confirmed on Wednesday this week, with expectations that it would be around 3.5 percent.

BUSES

Bus workers push for right to wear Rastafarian colours

WORKERS AT London bus contractor Metroline Travel are demanding an end to discrimination currently being experienced by one of its drivers.

Bus driver Marcia Carty, a Unite union member who is based at the Perivale depot, has been barred by Metroline bosses from wearing the colours of Rastafarianism on a head-covering while at work, despite making it clear that she needs to wear her colours in order to properly observe her

religion.

It is also understood by Unite that local Metroline managers have queried whether Rastafarianism is actually a religion.

The company allows other drivers to observe their religions by wearing headscarves and turbans.

If Metroline does not reverse its decision then Unite will formally raise the issue with Transport for London and will consider if further action is appropriate.

TRAM WORKERS

DRIVERS WORKING for Greater Manchester's Metrolink have accepted a three-year pay deal.

The Unite union hailed the package as "a great achievement".

It said drivers with more than 18 months' experience would be paid £30,000 a year backdated to January 2018 and £33,000 a year by January 2019.

More than 340 Unite members working for Metrolink Manchester voted to accept the deal.

Workers had backed a strike if there was not a decent offer and planned action on August bank holiday.

Unite regional officer Steve Davies said, "The deal addresses the long-term concerns of our members who were angry at the fact that their previous pay levels were up to £7,000 less than tram drivers in other cities for doing the same job."

Meanwhile Sheffield supertram workers have been voting on a three-year deal to end their dispute.

Birmingham care strikers march on

by DAVID HUGHES, Birmingham local government Unison branch (pc)

AROUND 400 home care workers and their supporters staged a lively march through the centre of Birmingham last Saturday.

It followed a strike rally outside the council headquarters in Victoria Square.

The march came on the last day of a three-day strike against council plans to slash the working hours of the home care enablement team.

Workers planned to strike again from Sunday until Wednesday, and then from 28 August to 1 September.

The cuts affect 285 workers and will see carers reduced to 14, 21 or 22 hours. Over 60 percent of them work full time or over 30 hours a week.

Earnings

This move will slash the earnings of low paid staff and remove entitlement to tax credits and Universal Credit.

Mandy Buckley is the Unison convenor for the home care workers.

She told the rally that she faced a cut of 44 hours a



HOME CARE workers and supporters protesting in Birmingham last Saturday

PICTURE: DAVID HUGHES

month and would not be able to afford to work.

"The strike is also about keeping a free, directly provided service to vulnerable citizens and resisting privatisation," she added.

Unison branch secretary

Caroline Johnson said, "They criticise Corbyn, saying he wants to take us back to the 1970s. But I prefer that to the Victorian era the bloody Tories are taking us to."

Roger McKenzie, Unison assistant general secretary,

slammed the local Labour council. "They are not there to represent the money people," he said.

"They are there to represent working people who put them there to stand up for local services."

Activists from Birmingham TUC and the Unite and FBU unions also addressed the strike rally.

Strikers had attended a mass meeting followed by a showing of the film Made In Dagenham during the

previous two strike days.

They leafleted the five largest council workplaces last Friday and were outside the four refuse collection depots at 5am, drumming up support from bin workers.

Applauded

The rally was followed by a march through the crowded city centre giving out leaflets and collecting for the strike fund. Shoppers applauded the strikers.

Disgracefully, Paul Golding and about ten supporters of the fascist Britain First jeered and jostled them, kicking a collection bucket out of a striker's hands.

Strikers reacted magnificently, silencing them with a loud chorus of, "We are black, white and Asian, and we're on strike."

Send messages of support to info@birminghamunison.co.uk Contact Birmingham Unison to invite a home care worker to speak to your union branch. Donate to support the strikers—make cheques payable to "Birmingham Unison" and make clear it's for the hardship fund. Send to McLaren building, 35 Dale End, Birmingham B4 7LN

ANTI-CUTS

Angry protest as Northamptonshire council votes for a brutal cuts plan

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) voted through swingeing cuts last Wednesday that will trash council services.

The Tory-run council is technically insolvent and voted to cut its budget by £70 million by next March.

It isn't clear exactly how the cuts will fall.

But councillors were asked to agree a "decision-making hierarchy" outlining which services the council will continue to provide.

A protest organised by Save Northants Services lobbied outside the council chamber.

Campaigners say the



A protest against Northamptonshire council cuts earlier this month

council's "core offer" will leave thousands of people at risk.

Campaigner Sara told Socialist Worker, "The most vulnerable people are going to die."

"For instance, they're saying they will only protect children who are at 'significant' or 'immediate' risk of harm."

Some see a mass non-payment of council tax as a way to protest.

As Sara asked, "Why should we keep paying it if we're not getting the services?"

Campaigners say that NCC is the "canary in the mine" for a

national funding crisis of local authorities.

The Tories have cut £16 billion from councils in England in eight years.

East Sussex is set to be the next council to vote for "core offer" council services.

And the National Audit Office said one in five local authorities with responsibility for social care will have drained their financial reserves in five years.

Paul from Save Northants Services said the crisis was due to "a failure of austerity politics".

"They want to destroy the public sector and

make it available for the private sector," he said.

Addressing the councillors, anti-cuts campaigner Norman said, "You people are suggesting a massacre, taking a chainsaw to the services people need."

Bianca Todd told councillors, "When people die this winter, they will die because of your cuts."

Theresa May's government should be made to cough up the money to fully resource services in Northamptonshire.

But ultimately the Tories need to be kicked out.

Sarah Bates